



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

OCT 17 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EMPLOYEES

SUBJECT: Reopening the Government

Today the Department of Defense is resuming normal operations across the world, now that Congress has finally restored funding for the Department and the rest of the Federal Government. This manufactured crisis was an unwelcomed and unnecessary distraction from our critical work of keeping the country safe.

I know that each of your lives has been disrupted and affected in different ways. I regret the impact that this shutdown had on so many of our civilian personnel, particularly those who I was previously unable to recall from emergency furlough.

Starting today, we will be welcoming all of our civilians back to their normal duties. To those returning from furlough, know that the work you perform is incredibly valued by your military teammates and by me. I appreciate your professionalism and your patience during this difficult period, which came on top of last summer's sequestration-related furloughs. Your managers will have more information about this, but I can assure you that you will be paid in full for the time you were furloughed during the shutdown.

Now that this latest budget crisis has come to an end, we have an opportunity to return to focusing on the critical work of this Department. Unfortunately, Congress did not end the budget uncertainty that has cast such a shadow of uncertainty over this Department for much of the year. In the months ahead, they will have an opportunity to do so. My hope is that they will realize that these kinds of crises do great damage to our people, our national security, our economy, and America's standing in the world. Congress has a responsibility to govern, and it must fulfill those basic responsibilities in order to keep our country strong.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Chuck Hagel", is positioned below the main text. The signature is stylized and includes a horizontal line underneath the name.



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